gshA20::Tn10Km *trxB*::Km...Tn10 *supp)* and FA113 (DHB4 *gor522*...mini-Tn10Tc *trxB*::Km *supp*). Each of these strains was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, on November 11, 1999, under the requirements and terms of the Budapest Treaty, and have been assigned Accession Nos. PTA-938 (FA112) and PTA-939 (FA113), respectively.

In the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3), please replace claims 29-33, 39-41, 43, 46 and 50 with claims 29-33, 39-41, 43, 46 and 50 as set forth below. A marked-up version of the claims showing the changes made follows the remarks section of this response.

C2

29. **(Amended)** A prokaryotic cell that is genetically modified to shift the redox status of the cytoplasm to a more oxidative state that favors disulfide bond formation, relative to wild-type, which cell is further genetically modified to increase the cell's ability to proliferate relative to cell that is not further genetically modified.

30. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 29, in which the expression or activity of a reductase is decreased relative to that in the corresponding wild-type cell.

31. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 30, wherein the reductase is selected from the group consisting of thioredoxin reductase and glutathione reductase.

32. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 30, in which the expression or activity of a second reductase is decreased relative to that in the corresponding wild-type cell.

33. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 29, wherein the second reductase is selected from the group consisting of thioredoxin reductase and glutathione reductase.

C3

39. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 29, wherein the further genetic modification is a suppressor mutation.

40. **(Amended)** The prokaryotic cell of claim 29, wherein the further modification restores at least some of the reducing capacity to the cytoplasm of the prokaryotic cell relative to cell that is not further genetically modified.